



Testimony Regarding the Powers of the Bradley International Airport Board of Directors

Raised Bill No. 925 - *AN ACT CONCERNING BRADLEY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT*

Bradley International Airport, Connecticut's flagship commercial airport and New England's second largest, is a major economic driver for the State of Connecticut. The Bradley Development League, MetroHartford Alliance and key state legislators were instrumental in the last legislative session in creating the Bradley Airport Development Zone to seize upon the airport's potential and encourage economic development and we thank you for your role in that. Now before you is a proposal to provide the Bradley International Airport Board of Directors additional powers to help ensure that important decisions are made in a timely and strategic manner. Airports are becoming increasingly competitive and in order to enhance Bradley's position in the marketplace the Bradley Board of Directors needs to have the power and tools to act quickly and effectively.

We endorse the proposed bill which empowers the Board to hire managerial employees and establish salaries, approve significant contracts relating to airport operations, select consultants directly rather than only those recommend by the DOT, and streamlines their competitive bidding procedure for construction contractors, airport vendors, and other professional services.

Bradley is already an Economic Development Engine but it has not reached its full Potential

The importance of Bradley cannot be understated. In the Gallis Report (December 1999), the author states "Bradley potentially is the most significant facility influencing Connecticut's development within the 'New Atlantic Triangle' and how the state and the Hartford/Springfield metropolitan region connect to the North American continent and the world." Connecticut's economy is inextricably linked to the world economy and Bradley is the State's most important link to the global marketplace.

The Contribution Of Bradley International Airport to Connecticut's Economy, a Department of Economic and Community Development Impact Analysis (May 2005), determined that over the next twenty years Bradley will contribute, on average, more than \$34 billion in output, nearly \$11 billion in income for Connecticut's residents and sustain nearly 140,000 jobs. The report states, "These analyses show the critical role that Bradley plays in the local and regional economies as both an active employer and driver of economic impacts, but more so, as an invaluable transportation asset that propels Connecticut's people and businesses forward in an increasingly integrated and competitive international economy."

In Transportation 2035, a CRCOG publication it was reported that in the latest Economic Impact Survey, it was determined that Bradley contributes \$4 billion in economic activity to the State of Connecticut and the surrounding region, representing \$1.2 billion in wages and 18,000 full-time jobs.